

BY E-FILING

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

228498

December 17, 2010

Re: STB Docket EP 526 (Sub - No. 2) Notice of Rail Transportation Advisory Council Vacancies

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is in support of the nomination of Dr. Howard I. Kaplan of U.S. Magnesium, LLC to fill one of the vacancies on the Railroad-Shipper Advisory Council (RSTAC). More specifically, I recommend Dr. Kaplan as a voting representative from a small rail shipper.

Tom Wilcox recommended Dr. Kaplan for this position on December 13, 2010. That recommendation was in response to a decision served in EP 526 (Sub - No. 2) on November 10, 2010, which provided notices of two vacancies on the Railroad-Shipper Advisory Council (RSTAC). One of those vacancies is a voting representative from a small rail shipper. The decision requested that suggestions for candidates to fill this position be filed by December 13, 2010. On that date, Tom Wilcox requested that the Board consider Dr. Howard I. Kaplan of U.S. Magnesium, LLC for this position.

I concur that Dr. Howard Kaplan would be an excellent choice for that position. I have worked with Howard for several years on various projects and have found him to be both an effective leader and a solid team player. He has a "roll up your sleeves" approach and has put in the time and the work to understand STB rules and policies, as well as both shipper and railroad viewpoints.

Dr. Kaplan's contact information is provided below:

Dr. Howard I. Kaplan
Vice President, Chemicals and Byproducts
U.S. Magnesium LLC
238 North 2200 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
(801) 556-0199

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I appreciate your willingness to consider Dr. Kaplan for this position and would be glad to provide additional information.

Thanks,

Tom O'Connor

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cc: Dr. Howard I. Kaplan
Tom Wilcox, Esq.